

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 CEQ-02 COA-02

EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 DRC-01 /171 W

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R 261825Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2446

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E.O. 11652/ ,/A

TAGS: ENGR, SENV, MX

SUBJECT: FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF LEAD-FREE GASOLINE IN
MEXICO

1. ACCORDING TO ESPINOSA DE LOS REYES, SUBDIRECTOR IN CHARGE
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, PEMEX IS PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO
PROVIDING UNLEADED GASOLINE BY SEPT 1 (HE EXPRESSED SOME
PRIVATE DOUBTS THAT THIS GOAL WOULD, IN FACT, BE ACHIEVED.
THE END OF 1974 WOULD BE MORE LIKELY.)

2. PEMEX WILL ADOPT THE 0.05 GRAM PER GALLON OF LEAD STANDARD
AS MENTIONED, BUT STILL UNDECIDED ON LEVEL OF PHOSPHOROUS.

3. UNLEADED GAS WILL BE AVAILABLE NATIONALLY, BUT
INITIAL SHIPMENTS AND DISTRIBUTION WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD
BORDER AREAS.

4. PEMEX IS PURCHASING SMALL NOZZLES ("PITONES") TO DISPENSE
UNLEADED GASOLINE. NOZZLES WILL FIT RESTRUCTED FUEL FILLERS
INSTALLED ON VEHICLES REQUIRING UNLEADED GASOLINE.

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5. PEMEX WILL PROBABLY (STILL UNCONFIRMED) SELL UNLEADED GAS FROM SILVER "EXTRA" PUMPS, WITH DESIGNATION TO READ "EXTRA-S/P" (S/P FOR SIN PLOMO). IF IMPLEMENTED, SOME ALTERNATIVE ADDITIVE WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND TO KEEP OCTANE IN 94 RANGE.
6. NO ESTIMATES WERE AVAILABLE ON THE PERCENTAGES OF STATIONS THAT WILL BE CARRYING UNLEADED GASOLINE BY OCT 74 AND OCT 75.
7. ESPINOSA DE LOS REYES COMMENTED PRINCIPAL DELAY IN AVAILABILITY OF UNLEADED GASOLINE IS DUE TO LENGTHY PROCESS OF WASHING AND FLUSHING GASOLINE STORAGE TANKS SO THAT LEAD CONTENT CAN BE MAINTAINED AT PROPOSED 0.05 GRAM LEVEL. NOTE: IF EPA HAS SOME TECHNICAL ADVICE ON METHODS TO DO SO, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO PASS IT ON TO PEMEX.
8. IN CLOSING COMMENT, PERHAPS INDICATIVE OF PEMEX ATTITUDE, ESPINOSA DE LOS REYES FEELS REDUCING LEAD CONTENT OF GASOLINE IS NOT SOLUTION TO AUTOMOBILE POLLUTION. HE EXPECTS CATALYTIC CONVERTERS WILL BE DISCARDED IN 3-4 YEARS IN FAVOR OF OTHER ALTERNATIVE.
9. WE STRESSED USG WAS CONCERNED UNAVAILABILITY UNLEADED GASOLINE MIGHT AFFECT TOURISM AND OTHER CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC. ESPINOSA DE LOS REYES REPLIED HE UNDERSTOOD U.S. CONCERN AND THAT PEMEX WAS WORKING WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED.
10. SAME POINTS WERE MADE BY E/C COUNSELOR IN SEPARATE CALL ON OSCAR DE LA TORRE PADILLA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, AND COPIES OF COMMUNICATIONS TO PEMEX LEFT WITH HIM. DE LA TORRE SAW POINT IMMEDIATELY AND STATED HE WOULD CALL IT TO ATTENTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE. JOVA

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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